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the Secretary, and will be examined; and we shall see how they will enable practical geographers to improve their maps of a portion of Africa where no observations have hitherto been made.

The second Paper was—

2. *On Fossil Bones from the Alluvial Strata of the Zambesi Delta.*

By JOHN KIRK, M.D.

THESE bones were collected in the bed of a stream which joins the Zambesi near the head of the Delta, whither they had been transported by the rush of water from a little way inland. In Mammalia, the bones and teeth of large antelopes were most abundant; next, those of the buffalo, hippopotamus, and lion. Among reptiles, fragments of the osseous back of the water-tortoise and bones of crocodile were found. Besides bones there were many fragments of pottery, rounded on the edges, which, on fracture, had the same appearance as the half-baked pottery now in use by the natives; but the surface-markings differed from all kinds of pottery known either to Dr. Livingstone or Dr. Kirk. It seems probable that these fragments were washed from the clay strata, as well as the bones, in company of which they are found. Villages in this region are commonly situated near a lagoon or creek, and it is the superstitious custom of some tribes to cast into the water all bones of animals after the flesh is eaten. The bones have evidently not lain long exposed to the sun and air, otherwise they would not have retained so well their form. All the specimens yet examined belong to species now existing in the Zambesi Delta.

The PRESIDENT said he would read a short communication of his own in relation to the Paper just read. They would excuse him if upon this occasion he commingled a little his peculiar science of geology with physical geography. He had always endeavoured to combine them, because he believed one is the foundation of the other. He deeply regretted that the fossil bones collected by Dr. Livingstone and Dr. Kirk should be a remnant only of the fossil remains and other natural history objects collected by them. The chief collections had been sent by trading-vessels to Mozambique, and not having yet reached this country it was to be feared they have been lost. The geological maps of the late Mr. Richard Thornton, the geologist who went out with the expedition, except one map of the Kilimandjaro Mountains, have in like manner been sent away in ships and have not been heard of.

The PRESIDENT then read the third Paper—

3. *On the Antiquity of the Physical Geography of Inner Africa.*

By Sir RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B.

HE commenced by expressing the regret which every one must feel, that so small a portion of the fossil remains and Natural History objects, collected by Dr. Livingstone and Dr. Kirk, should have